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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/623,320	07/18/2003	Katsuei Ichikawa	16869N-085600US	3277
20350	7590	03/13/2007	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP			TRAN, NHAN T	
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER				
EIGHTH FLOOR				
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	03/13/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/623,320	ICHIKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nhan T. Tran	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2003 and 08 February 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-11 and 15-18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of species I (Figs. 1, 2 & 5A), claims 1, 2, 12-14 in the reply filed on 2/8/2007 is acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 3-11 and 15-18 are withdrawn from consideration.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 7/18/2003 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 12 & 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirst et al. (US 6,173,411 B1).

Regarding claim 1; Hirst discloses a transmitting device (Fig. 4) which is provided with a plurality of communication interfaces (47 and 49) connectable to a plurality of respective communication lines (29 and 31 as shown in Fig. 3) and transmits data through the communication interface, wherein, if a communication line is disconnected while data is being transmitted, an appropriate communication line is selected based on predetermined criteria (i.e., an alternate line is good or not) for communication line connection; a communication interface corresponding to the communication line is driven to establish connection with the communication line; and the data is transmitted (see Figs. 3-6; Abstract and col. 4, line 8 – col. 5, line 11).

Regarding claim 12, it also clearly seen in Hirst that the criteria for communication line connection include at least the condition of communication line (good link) as shown in step 105 of Fig. 5 and 117, 119 of Fig. 6, col. 4, line 65 – col. 5, line 11.

Regarding claim 13, this method claim is also met by the analysis of the apparatus claim 1 above.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2 & 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirst et al. (US 6,173,411 B1) in view of Fischer (US 4,941,089).

Regarding claim 2, Hirst discloses all limitations of claim 2 as analyzed in claim 1 except for disclosing a data storing means for storing data to be transmitted, and said data generated and stored in said data storing means while the communication line is disconnected is transmitted together with data to be transmitted.

However, Fischer teaches an input/output network for computer system that buffers data packets to be transmitted in a buffer RAM (208 in Fig. 8) and the transmitting device detects and re-transmits missing or lost data packets to a receiving device so as to ensure a complete data packet has been successfully received (see Fischer; Figs. 2-8; col. 13, lines 26-40 and col. 29, lines 28-39).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus in Hirst to include a data storing means for storing data to be transmitted and the data generated and stored in the data storing means while the communication line disconnected is transmitted together with data to be transmitted so that data is never lost even if the communication line is disconnected as suggested by Fischer above.

Regarding claim 14, this method claim is also met by the analysis of the apparatus claim 2.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nhan T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7371. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



NHAN T. TRAN
Patent Examiner